

topic: **HOLIDAYS | St. Patrick's Day**

*Fill in each blank space with the correct response. If both responses are acceptable, choose the one that sounds **more natural**:*

St. Patrick's day is the (1)_____ (nation/national) holiday of the Irish people. It celebrates Saint Patrick - one of the patron saints of Ireland. It is an official holiday in the Republic of Ireland, and is (2)_____ (widely/great) celebrated in many other English-speaking countries.

This day is all about having fun. Many St. Patrick's day parties (3)_____ (corner/center) around everything green and/or Irish.

Many cities around the world have St. Patrick's Day (4)_____ (marching/parades). The biggest ones are in New York, Savannah (Georgia), and Dublin.

Part of the tradition is that one has to wear at least one green item of (5)_____ (clothing/cloth). In parts of the world, children who do not wear anything green are either pinched, or punched in the arm.

One very (6)_____ (reconnaissance/recognizable) symbol of St. Patrick's Day (mainly because it is a symbol of Ireland) is the "shamrock" - a three-leaf clover.

(7)_____ (Drinking/Taking) lots of alcohol has, in many places, become synonymous with St. Patrick's Day.

In Chicago, the river is actually (8)_____ (dyed/died) green every year for St. Patrick's Day.

Historically, Saint Patrick's Day was celebrated only as a religious holiday up (9)_____ (by/until) about 100 years ago, when it became a public holiday.

You don't have to be Irish to celebrate this holiday. In fact, it is (10)_____ (customary/custom) for non-Irish people to think of themselves as "Irish for a day" on St. Patrick's Day.

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ANSWERS:

1) national 2) widely 3) center 4) parades 5) clothing 6) recognizable 7) drinking
8) dyed 9) until 10) customary